

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING HELD ON JUNE 22, 2020

JUNE 22, 2020

PERSUANT TO THE FOREGOING WARRANT, THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM MET AT THE OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM ON JUNE 22, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. MODERATOR KEITH GLENNY PRESIDED AT THE MEETING.

ARTICLE Consent

MOTION MADE John Mulhall  
BY:

SECONDED BY: Leo Janssens II

MOTION: Mr. Moderator, I move that articles 1 through 8 be approved by consent.

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: Yes	ADVISORY RECOMMEND: Yes	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND: --	TAX RATE IMPACT: --
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EXPLANATION:

In an effort to streamline Town Meeting, the Board of Selectmen started using a Consent Agenda in FY12. The Selectmen have placed Articles 1 through 8 on the Consent Agenda which appear below. The use of the Consent Agenda speeds the passage of articles which the Selectmen, in consultation with the Advisory Board believe are unlikely to generate any discussion or debate. These articles are effectively taken from the warrant, placed on this Agenda and acted upon as a unit under one motion which may not be debated. The Moderator will call for any "holds" prior to calling for the vote on the Consent Agenda. Any article(s) so held will be automatically restored to its place on the warrant for action in the normal course.

VOTE  
REQUIRED:

Simple Majority

Unanimous Vote "YES" FOR ARTICLES 1 THROUGH 8

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST

*Nichelle M. Johnson*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM, MA

☐☐☐☐

ARTICLE 1

To accept the reports of several town officers and all outstanding committees, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Board of Selectmen)

MOTION MADE --  
BY:

SECONDED BY: --

MOTION:

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: Yes	ADVISORY RECOMMEND: Yes	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND: --	TAX RATE IMPACT: --
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EXPLANATION: Annual article to accept the reports of Town officials and boards.

VOTE Simple Majority  
REQUIRED:

VOTE

☐ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Days \_\_\_\_\_ Days

ARTICLE 2

To see if the Town will vote to authorize a PILOT payment based on the annual kilowatt sales of the Light Department multiplied by a per kilowatt value from the Municipal Light Plant Funds, to the town treasury, as authorized by its Light Board in accordance with Chapter 164 of the General Laws of the Commonwealth, or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Municipal Light Department)*

MOTION    MADE    --

BY:

SECONDED BY:    --

MOTION:

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

EXPLANATION:

The PILOT agreement is tied to the Pilot payment in the annual kilowatt sales of the light department multiplied by a per kilowatt value. This was put in place for FY13 to ease the calculation and establish a standard process for future years. In FY21 it is estimated we will receive \$70,300.

VOTE

REQUIRED:

Simple Majority

VOTE

☐ Unanimous    ☐ Majority Voice    ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice    ☐ Count    \_\_\_\_\_ Yays    \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

ARTICLE 3

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Treasurer/Collector, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time-to-time in anticipation of the revenue of the financial year beginning July 1, 2020, in accordance with the provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Treasurer/Collector)

MOTION MADE --

BY:

SECONDED BY: --

MOTION:

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: Yes	ADVISORY RECOMMEND: Yes	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND: --	TAX RATE IMPACT: --
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EXPLANATION:

Allows the Treasurer to temporarily borrow operating funds for the Town to ensure payments are done in a timely manner. The Treasurer can only borrow that amount which is expected to be received.

VOTE

REQUIRED:

Simple Majority

VOTE

☐ Unanimous   ☐ Majority Voice   ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice   ☐ Count   \_\_\_\_\_ Yays   \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

ARTICLE 4

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a contract or contracts with the Massachusetts Highway Department for the construction and maintenance of town roads in conformance with the Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

MOTION    MADE    --  
BY:

SECONDED BY:    --

MOTION:

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

EXPLANATION:

This article allows the Town Administrator to contract with the State to do road repairs in Ashburnham. This article does not approve any specific project/road, but rather provides the delegation of authority to allow the TA to enter into a contract with the State.

VOTE  
REQUIRED:

Simple Majority

VOTE

☐ Unanimous    ☐ Majority Voice    ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice    ☐ Count    \_\_\_\_\_ Yays    \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

ARTICLE 5

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate all funds which become available in the Fiscal Year 2021 from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Highways, Chapter 90 Bond Issue proceeds, to be used by the DPW for the repair and maintenance of town roads in conformance with Massachusetts General Laws, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

MOTION MADE --

BY:

SECONDED BY: --

MOTION:

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: Yes	ADVISORY RECOMMEND: Yes	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND: --	TAX RATE IMPACT: --
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EXPLANATION:

This annual article allows the Town to expend its Chapter 90 state funds. For fiscal year 2020 the amount of those funds is estimated to be \$341,939.

VOTE  
REQUIRED: Simple Majority

VOTE

☐ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

ARTICLE 6

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of trust fund income not to exceed \$1,000 from the Cushing Academy Trust Fund to pay for the fiscal year 2021 secondary school expenses, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by Town Administrator)

MOTION    MADE    --  
BY:

SECONDED BY:    --

MOTION:

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

EXPLANATION:

This is the transfer of funds (interest) from the Cushing Academy Trust fund (\$117,000). When the Town students were removed from Cushing Academy it was required to deposit \$114,000 into the Town's funds and the interest earned on these monies were to be used to offset the cost to the Town for secondary education in public schools.

VOTE  
REQUIRED:

Simple Majority

VOTE

☐ Unanimous    ☐ Majority Voice    ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice    ☐ Count    \_\_\_\_\_ Yays    \_\_\_\_\_ Nays



ARTICLE 7

To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$15,972 from special assessments Title V Receipts Account (septic system loan program) to pay principal and interest due on notes payable to the Water Pollution Abatement Trust, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

MOTION MADE --

BY:

SECONDED BY: --

MOTION:

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND: Yes	ADVISORY RECOMMEND: Yes	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND: --	TAX RATE IMPACT: --
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EXPLANATION:

The Town established a Septic System Loan Program where the cost was established as betterments. Each year charges are levied on the tax bills, and the revenue required is reserved or appropriated. We then must transfer monies required to cover the loan payment.

VOTE

REQUIRED:

Simple Majority

VOTE

☐ Unanimous   ☐ Majority Voice   ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice   ☐ Count   \_\_\_\_\_ Yays   \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

ARTICLE 8

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money not to exceed \$2,500 from the Waterways Improvement Fund for the purpose of waterway improvement, maintenance, and safety, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Ashburnham Lakes Coalition)

MOTION MADE --  
BY:

SECONDED BY: --

MOTION:

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

EXPLANATION:

The Waterways Improvement Fund is funded by a portion of the boat excise tax to be used for waterways maintenance, access, law enforcement or fire prevention. The Ashburnham Lakes Coalition has been given the charge of recommending the use of these monies to the Board of Selectmen who then approve or disapprove expenditures. In the past these monies have been used for Police boat patrols, lifesaving courses, purchase of a Police boat and other water related expenditures.

VOTE  
REQUIRED:

Simple Majority

VOTE

☐ Unanimous    ☐ Majority Voice    ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice    ☐ Count    \_\_\_\_\_ Yays    \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

## ARTICLE 9

To see what spending limits the Town will establish for revolving accounts established pursuant to Chapter 44, section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws and Ashburnham General Bylaws for Fiscal Year 2021; or take any other action related thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

MOTION    MADE    Leo Janssens II  
BY:

SECONDED BY:    Rosemarie Meissner

MOTION:    Mr. Moderator, I move establish spending limits for revolving accounts established pursuant to Chapter 44, section 53E½ of the Massachusetts General Laws and Ashburnham General Bylaws for Fiscal Year 2021 as follows:

<u>Revolving Fund</u>	<u>Spending Limit</u>
RAD Program	\$15,000
Fire Alarm & Communications	\$20,000
Economic Development Banner Program	\$10,000

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	ADVISORY RECOMMEND:	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND:	TAX RATE IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

EXPLANATION:    Now that the revolving funds are established, the limits to what can be collected in each fund and expended is an annual requirement.

VOTE    Simple Majority  
REQUIRED:    *Nichelle M. Johnson*  
**A TRUE COPY, ATTEST**

UNANIMOUS VOTE "YES"    **TOWN CLERK**  
**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM, MA**

☐ Unanimous    ☐ Majority Voice    ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice    ☐ Count    ☐ VOTE    \_\_\_\_\_ Days    \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

ARTICLE 10

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum \$817,994 to operate the Water Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

Salaries	85,248
Expenses	120,397
Water Filtration Plant	312,000
Debt Service	121,632
Indirect Costs	178,717
	<u>\$ 817,994</u>

MOTION MADE Rosemarie Meissner  
BY:

SECONDED BY: John Mulhall

MOTION: Mr. Moderator, I move to raise and appropriate a sum \$817,994 to operate the Water Department for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020.

SELECTMEN	ADVISORY	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE	TAX RATE
RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	RECOMMEND:	IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

EXPLANATION: The FY20 expenses increased by 1.24% over FY20. Indirect costs increased.

ATRUE COPY, ATTEST

VOTE Simple Majority

REQUIRED:

UNANIMOUS VOTE "YES"

*Michelle M. Johnson*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM, MA  
VOTE

☐ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice

☐ 2/3 Majority Voice

☐ Count

\_\_\_\_ Yays

\_\_\_\_ Nays

ARTICLE 11

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate a sum \$777,792 to operate the Sewer Department for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020. or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Town Administrator)

Salaries	42,255
Expenses	115,748
Service Charges Gardner	450,000
Debt Service	-
Indirect Costs	162,789
	<u>\$ 777,792</u>

MOTION MADE John Mulhall  
BY:

SECONDED BY: Leo Janssens II

MOTION: Mr. Moderator, I move to raise and appropriate a sum \$777,792 to operate the Sewer Department for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	ADVISORY RECOMMEND:	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND:	TAX RATE IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	--

EXPLANATION: The FY21 Sewer Budget is 0.62% increase over FY20. We accurately calculated indirect costs for FY21, and at this time there is no outstanding sewer debt.

VOTE REQUIRED: Simple Majority

UNANIMOUS VOTE "YES"

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST  
*Michelle M. Johnson*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM, MA

VOTE  
☐ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count ☐ Yays ☐ Nays

ARTICLE 12  
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sum \$17,809,090 as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 and to set the salaries of elected officials; or act in relation thereto. (Requested by the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board)

Line	Department	Adjusted Budget FY20	Budget FY21
1	Moderator	100	100
2	Board of Selectmen	8,122	8,122
3	Town Administrator	244,892	271,465
4	Advisory Board	500	500
5	Reserve Fund	50,000	50,000
6	Town Accountant	85,040	95,200
7	Board of Assessors	114,625	116,484
8	Treasurer/Collector	151,713	167,114
9	Tax Title	19,900	19,900
10	IT Expense	184,227	185,016
11	Town Clerk	54,528	59,693
12	Conservation Commission	26,427	27,306
13	Open Space Recreation Committee	650	1,272
14	Inspectional Services	169,138	173,160
15	Town Buildings	202,679	227,130
16	Non-Departmental	125,355	125,355
17	Police	1,536,009	1,598,356
18	Fire	783,192	804,361
19	Emergency Dispatch	307,592	305,970
20	Animal Control	34,010	34,650
21	Monty Tech	510,715	574,410
22	Ash-West Reg School District	7,726,707	7,917,931
23	Highway	1,010,805	1,046,535
24	Snow & Ice	230,000	230,000
25	Board of Health	22,455	22,455
26	Council on Aging	26,914	34,694
27	Veterans' Services	79,000	82,686
28	Agricultural Commission	1,000	1,000
29	Library	227,199	233,874
30	Parks & Recreation Committee	16,500	16,500
31	Historical Commission	250	1,250
32	Debt Service	1,786,744	1,717,142
33	Employee Insurance Benefits	1,549,812	1,659,459
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>17,286,800</b>	<b>17,809,090</b>

MOTION MADE Leo Janssens II  
BY:

SECONDED BY: Rosemarie Meissner

MOTION: Mr. Moderator, I move to raise and appropriate such sum \$17,809,090 as may be necessary to defray the expenses of the Town for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2020 and to set the salaries of elected officials

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	ADVISORY RECOMMEND:	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND:	TAX RATE IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	--	.53

EXPLANATION: Annual operating budget article as noted represents a 3.02% increase over the adjusted FY20 budget. The FY21 revenue covers this article as well as Article 13.

VOTE  
REQUIRED: Simple Majority

MAJORITY VOTE "YES"

VOTE  
☐ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST

*Michelle M. Johnson*

TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM, MA



ARTICLE 14

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$39,999 to fund the recommendation of the Capital Planning Committee to include the following:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Volvo Loader 3rd of 5 year payments	39,999
		<u>\$ 39,999</u>

or act in relation thereto. *(Requested by the Town Administrator)*

MOTION MADE John Mulhall  
BY:

SECONDED BY: Leo Janssens II

MOTION: Mr. Moderator, I move to raise and appropriate from available funds the sum of \$39,999 to fund the recommendation of the Capital Planning Committee to include the following:

<u>Line</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1	Volvo Loader 3rd of 5 year payments	39,999
		<u>\$ 39,999</u>

SELECTMEN RECOMMEND:	ADVISORY RECOMMEND:	CAPITAL PLAN COMMITTEE RECOMMEND:	TAX RATE IMPACT:
Yes	Yes	Yes	.05

EXPLANATION: The capital article is limited to the required articles, which due to financial commitments and imminent departmental need to be addressed at Annual Town Meeting.

VOTE 2/3 Majority Voice  
REQUIRED:

2/3 MAJORITY UNANIMOUS "YES"

VOTE

☐ Unanimous ☐ Majority Voice ☐ 2/3 Majority Voice ☐ Count \_\_\_\_\_ Yays \_\_\_\_\_ Nays

A TRUE COPY, ATTEST  
*Michelle M. Johnson*  
TOWN CLERK  
TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM, MA